

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00453 071455Z

43

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 SP-02 EB-03 IO-03 PM-03 DODE-00 SAM-01 PRS-01

L-01 /053 W

----- 068367

R 071414Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2603

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 453

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, RO

SUBJ: VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER TO DAMASCUS

1.SUMMARY: ACCORDING ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR MANCIUR, PRIME MINISTER MANESCU'S JANUARY 27-FEB 1 VISIT TO DAMASCUS HAD BEEN CAREFULLY PREPARED AND WENT OFF IN BUSINESSLIKE FASHION. AT LEAST 90 PERCENT OF THE VISIT WAS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. ONE POLITICAL ISSUES, SYRIANS MADE PLAIN THEIR APPREHENSION ABOUT BEING ISOLATED FROM ONGOING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN ME. END SUMMARY

2. ECONOMIC: SUMMING UP THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS, MANCIUR NOTED THAT THE IMPETUS FOR SYRIAN-ROMANIAN BILATERAL PROGRAMS STARTED WITH CEACUSEAU'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS A YEAR AGO AND HAD BEEN EXPEDITED BY ASAD'S VISIT TO BUCHAREST LAST SUMMER. MANCIUR GAVE THE FOLLOWING STATUS REPORT ON TWO ROMANIAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00453 071455Z

PROJECTS:

A. TARTOUS PORT PHOSPHATE HANDLING: PRIOR TO ROMANIAN ASSISTANCE AND USING TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES, SYRIANS HAD BEEN PROCESSING 2,000 TONS OF PHOSPHATE FOR EXPORT PER DAY. WITH ROMANIAN HELP THIS TOTAL HAD BEEN RAISED TO 2,000 TONS PER HOUR. SARG HAS NOW DECIDED TO ORDER FURTHER ROMANIAN EQUIPMENT AND SILOS TO INCREASE THIS RATE TO 4,000 TONS AN HOUR. SYRIANS HAD TOLD ROMANIANS THEY WERE ENCOURAGING JORDANIANS TO EXPORT THEIR PHOSPHATES THROUGH TARTOUS INSTEAD OF BEIRUT.

B. SUPER-PHOSPHATE FACTORY: ROMANIA HAS AGREED TO BUILD A FACTORY TO PRODUCE 450,000 TONS OF SUPER-PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER ANNUALLY.

3. PRESIDENT ASAD CHAIRED TWO MAJOR SESSIONS WITH THE ROMANIAN DELEGATION. MANCIUR FOUND THE PRESIDENT CAREFUL TO DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS MINISTERS WHILE REMAINING FULLY AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THEIR WORK. OF THE SYRIAN MINISTERS WHO MET WITH THE ROMANIANS, MANCIUR SIGNLED OUT EUPHRATES DAM MINISTER KAHALI FOR PARTICULAR PRAISE BOTH AS A TECHNICIAN AND EXECUTIVE. KAHALI, NOW NEAR RETIREMENT, CONTINUES TO DIRECT HIS MINISTRY'S WORK WITH EXCELLENT ATTENTION TO BOTH DETAIL AND OVERALL PROGRAMMING. ASKED HIS IMPRESSIONS OF PRIME MINISTER AYYOUBI, WHOSE CAPACITIES MANY SYRIANS TEND TO DISPARAGE, MANCIUR AVOIDED A DIRECT REPLY. HE DID NOTE THAT ROMANIANS HAD INSERTED INTO EVERY GENERAL PROTOCOL THEY SIGNED FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC COOPERATION A TIME TABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION TO WHICH EACH SIDE WAS COMMITTED. BUCHAREST HAD FURTHERMORE ASKED THAT MEETINGS AT THE PRIME MINISTERIAL LEVEL BE PERIODIC AND SYRIANS AGREED TO THIS.

4. ARAB-ISRAEL: ROMANIANS WERE STUCK BY THE DEPTH OF CONCERN AT SENIOR LEVELS SARG ABOUT SYRIAN ISOLATION FROM ONGOING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. SYRIANS HAD COMMENTED THAT THE APPARENTLY ADVANCED STAGE OF DISCUSSIONS PROMISING FURTHER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI WITHDRAWALS WAS NOT MATCHED BY PROGRESS ON THE SYRIAN-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 00453 071455Z

ISRAELI FRONT.

5. GENEVA: MANCIUR AGREED WITH SPECULATION THAT IT HAD BEEN THE SYRIANS WHO INSERTED INTO THE FEBRUARY 3 SOVIET-SYRIAN COMMUNIQUE THE EXTRA NOTE OF URGENCY ABOUT RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE "NO LATER THAN THE FIRST DAYS OF MARCH." WHEN HE CALLED ON KHADDAM FEB 4 FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON PRIOR TO MANCIUR'S UPCOMING

CONSULTATIONS IN BUCHAREST, KHADDAM HAD EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT GENEVA COULD BE CONVENED SO QUICKLY. MANCIUR REMARKED PARENTHETICALLY THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD BEEN SURPRISED AT EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT TO SUBSCRIBE TO "AN IMMEDIATE" CONVENING OF GENEVA IN THEIR COMMUNIQUE WITH GROMYKO.

6. ASKED ABOUT PHRASE IN SYRO-ROMANIAN COMMUNIQUE "THEY REVIEWED THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO ENABLE THEM TO POSITIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ACHIEVING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST," MANCIUR REPLIED THAT NEITHER SIDE HAD DETAILED TO THE OTHER ITS IDEAS OF ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS. HE DISMISSED AS MERE SPECULATION, PRESS COMMENTARY THAT EITHER HAD INTENDED PARIS IN PARTICULAR, NOTING WITH A SMILE THAT "AFTER ALL WE OURSELVES LAST YEAR PROPOSED ROMANIA BE A PARTICIPANT."

7. OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF MANESCU VISIT INCLUDED SIGNATURE OF PROTOCOLS FOR SYRO-ROMANIAN COOPERATION IN AREAS OF HEAVY INDUSTRY, PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT, IRRIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF EUPHRATES DAM COMPLEX. FINAL COMMUNIQUE (FBIS CARRIED TEXT) ALSO NOTED THAT BILATERAL TRADE HAS TRIPLED BETWEEN 1973 AND 1974.

8. COMMENT: ACCORDS SIGNED DURING MANESCU VISIT APPEAR TO BE, FOR THE MOST PART, "EXECUTION AGREEMENTS" OF PREVIOUSLY SIGNED COMMITMENTS OR FOLLOW-ON AGREEMENTS IN AREAS WHERE ROMANIANS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACTIVE. THIS DOES NOT DETRACT, HOWEVER, FROM FACT THAT SYRIANS WERE PLEASED WITH VISIT AND WITH STEADY GROWTH AND IMPROVEMENT IN SYRO-ROMANIAN TIES SINCE RELATIONS WERE RESUMED IN 1972.

MURPHY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DAMASC 00453 071455Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC00453
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750045-0840
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750263/aaaacexb.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER TO DAMASCUS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, RO, (MANESCU, MANEA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006